
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Paul Van Doren, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Albert Figueroa, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Wil Lopez, Karin Roberts, Taffi Romero, Erin Snyder, Nancy Sturmer, and John Williams.

Members Absent: Kirk Beck and Lorraine Hernandez-Saint

Members Excused: None

Council Members: Andy Melendrez, Rusty Bailey

Guests: Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Richard Burns, Aurora Chavez, Justin Scott-Coe, Lisa Golden, Norm Gritton, William Kenison, and Patricia Ryman

Staff: Eva Yakutis, Housing and Neighborhoods Manager; Hilda Gonzalez, Housing and Neighborhoods Project Assistant; Brenda Flowers, Mayor's Office

- 1. Call to Order/Introductions** – Called to order at 6:33pm by Taffi Romero
- 2. Presentation of paper weights for outgoing members of RNP** – Outgoing members presented and thanked for their service: Kirk Beck, Erin Snyder, and John E. Williams.
- 3. Approval of Minutes for June 2, 2008** – Motion to approve the minutes with the correction: Albert Figueroa was present for the June 2 RNP meeting.
(Jenson/Roberts/Carried)
- 4. Visiting Council members/Mayor’s Office –**
 - a. Ward 2 Council Member Andy Melendrez –
 - Dwight St. Neighborhood Group had their annual 4th of July celebration. The event was along Dwight Street; over 200 residents came out to celebrate the event.
 - Prince Albert Drive Neighborhood Group (New group in the Eastside) has met twice and is working on a third meeting. The group’s primary concern is vehicle traffic along Prince Albert Drive and traffic from the nearby school.
 - Pear Blossom Group (New Group in Canyon Crest) has had its first meeting and is planning to meet in mid July or August.
 - The other neighborhood groups in Ward 2 are still active and participating within the community.
 - Three opera performances at Bobby Bonds Community Center are set to take place by the end of summer. The first event was performance by the Riverside Lyric Opera, the second performance was by Suzanna Guzmán from the Los Angeles Opera, and the third event is the opera camp that runs from July 14 – 18 with a free performance on July 19 at Bobby Bonds, Cesar Chavez Community Center. The event will showcase local Riverside talent.

b. Ward 3 Council Member Rusty Bailey –

- Council Member Bailey shared his recent experience on a ride along with Burtech. Burtech collects the residential trash within portions of the City of Riverside. The Council Member shared with the group tips on how the residents can help make trash pickup easier and more efficient:
 - ✓ Space trash reciprocals apart on the curb
 - ✓ Put trash in bags to make pickup more efficient and effective
- Street improvements and construction along Chicago Ave. near Andulka Park which is still under construction
- Sidewalk and gutter Improvements along Central Ave. up towards Alessandro and Chicago
- Marcy Library is being relocated into the old AAA building and bringing in Park and Recreation admin to the second floor
- “Fly Trap” issue at the intersection of Brockton and Magnolia. The City will work on increasing the traffic flow by sprucing up the intersection, striping the lanes, moving some of the infrastructure, and adding a new grade separation
- City is negotiating with school district to collaborate on Sierra Middle School community park
- Council Member Bailey is looking to form a joint agreement with Ramona High School for a permanent track field and turf in stadium for the school and public use
- Mt. View Park is getting new playground equipment
- Council Member has asked Housing and Neighborhoods Division and the Riverside Police Department to assist in organizing his efforts to educate the residents near and around Nichols Park about public safety
- Question - Patricia Ryman asked how long to complete the grade separation along Magnolia and Brockton. Council Member Bailey responded that the project will take around 18 months to complete
- Question – Cindy Jenson asked when the library is moving into the AAA building. Council Member responded that perhaps within a year, improvements need to be made in order to convert the space into a library
- Question – Paul Chavez asked if parked vehicles made it difficult for trash pickup. Council Member Bailey responded that there were a few occasions that vehicles were in the way and that the drivers would need to get out of the vehicle and move the cans in order to allow room for pickup. The Council Member also added that the following items were being dumped into the recycle bins: car batteries, televisions and other hazardous materials. The trash crews cannot take these items onto the trash trucks and would need to call for additional trash services to pick up these items
- Paul Van Doren stated he was on a committee to educate the public not to leave their trash reciprocals on sidewalks as it may not hinder the pedestrian walkway

5. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –

a. 2008 Neighborhood Caucus and Elections Results –

Announcement of new incoming board members: Area 1 - Justin Scott-Coe, Area 2 – Amy Aldana, Area 3 – Albert Figueroa, Area 4 – Aurora Chavez, and Area 5 – Scott Andrews. The board discussed briefly the new caucus format and the effectiveness. The board has asked this item to be added to the

- November agenda when planning for the next neighborhood conference begins.
- b. Council/Redevelopment Agency Reports –
Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCC) PROPOSED RESOLUTION GIVING THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM was distributed. Item goes before council on July 8.
 - c. Attendance Report –
Hilda asked board members to make sure they sign in on the attendance sheet so that they are not marked absent.
 - d. New Neighborhood Groups –
Area 2 – Prince Albert Drive Neighborhood Group in the Eastside has had two meetings and is planning their next meeting.
Area 4 – Jackson Street is a group planning their first meeting that may occur by the end of the month or early next month.
 - e. RNP board member reports/activities/neighborhood assistance –
Wil Lopez – W3C will need to fill in the vacancy left by the group's president that had to resign due to personal reasons. The group is working closely with both the Police Department and Code Enforcement to deter illegal dumping and graffiti in and around the neighborhood.
Jeff Kraus – Attended the Eastside Neighborhood Plan Meeting that was held on June 19. There was good community attendance and all the comments given by the attendees were positive. He added that their comments were reflective of the positive impact of the partnership between the community and City Departments.
 - f. Neighborhood Leadership Academy –
Neighborhood Leadership Academy flyers and applications were dispersed to the attendees. The Academy is geared to residents who are already part of a neighborhood organization (formal or informal). The academy is eight consecutive Thursday evenings beginning on September 18. The academy will be at the Janet Goeske Center located at 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA, 92504

6. Subcommittee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Subcommittee –
A brief discussion by the board was conducted regarding the two vacant board positions in Area 4. The Bylaws subcommittee will meet and discuss the current Bylaws which need to be amended in order to fill the current and future vacancies. In addition, Kirk Beck has expressed interest on coming on the board as an Education Representative for the Alvord Unified School District
- b. Non-profit Subcommittee Report –
Christina Duran suggested that the Non-Profit committee meet with Courtney Pepper from the Resource Center for Non Profit Management.
- c. Neighborhood Conference Subcommittee – No report
- d. Marketing Subcommittee –
Susie Doss suggested that the RNP ask the editors of Riverside Magazine to do a story about the Neighborhood Conference a month before the event.
- e. Neighborhood Matching Grant Subcommittee –
No application submitted for the 1st Quarter.
- f. Neighborhood Awards Subcommittee – No report

7. Concern from visiting neighborhoods – None

8. Future Agenda –

- a. September –
 - RNP Orientation for incoming members
 - Planning Department re: selection of next two neighborhood plans.
 - Selection of a nominating committee
- b. October –
 - Election of RNP Officers
- c. November –
 - Neighborhood Caucus

9. Other Items/Public Comment –

- a. Jenson – Historic Wood Streets Association will be hosting their annual BBQ. The theme this year is Western Roundup and Hoedown. The BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, July 12th. Festivities begin at 4:00pm in the front yards of 3465 & 3475 Ramona Drive. The event is a potluck and they will have a Pie-Baking contest.
- b. Roberts – Habitat for Humanity will be hosting the dedication habitat home located at 2929 11th Street on July 29 at 9:00am. On October 25, 2008 Habitat Humanity Riverside will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary at the Heyming Estate. Robert Grier, founder of Habitat Riverside will be the guest of honor.
- c. W3C will be hosting a neighborhood block party on Aug 23., 2008 from 6-9pm
- d. McKinley Street Neighborhood Watch will be hosting a National Night Out Event on Aug 5.
- e. Duran – Bobby Bonds Community Center will be hosting a youth sleepover on July 7 from 6:00pm to 9:00am the next morning.

10. Next Meeting: September 8, 2008 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room

11. Adjournment – 7:28pm